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# TED CHUDLEIGH

## MPP Halton

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### **Chudleigh stands for democracy**

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh was escorted from the Legislature today when he refused to withdraw a characterization of the Premier as a 'liar' unless the government agreed to public hearings on the HST. He cannot return to his seat for the rest of today.

"It's the strongest possible way to protest the actions of the government," said Mr. Chudleigh. "I cannot sit still and watch this government trample on our democracy. I have to stand up."

Mr. Chudleigh asked Acting Premier and Finance Minister Dwight Duncan if there would be public hearings on the implementation of the proposed HST. Mr. Chudleigh reminded the government that Mr. McGuinty promised no tax increases in the 2003 election campaign and then dropped the health Tax, then the largest tax increase in the province's history in the lap of Ontarians. He reminded Minister Duncan that Premier McGuinty, during the 2007 election campaign, again promised to hold the line on taxes, and that he is now poised to foist upon us the largest sales tax increase in Ontario's history without any public consultations.

"The Premier lied to the people of Ontario," said Mr. Chudleigh. "Given his promises, he is morally obligated to face them through public consultations on this proposed HST."

Mr. Chudleigh also said that Minister Duncan has been meeting with hand selected people in Liberal held ridings to discuss the HST.

"Those meetings are totally unacceptable uses of the resources of the Government of Ontario," said Mr. Chudleigh. "Mr. McGuinty is treating the government as if it was an arm of the Ontario Liberal Party."

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